

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: S. HIRANO, et al.  
Serial No: 10/589,988  
Filed: AUGUST 18, 2006  
Title: METHOD OF FRICTION STIR-SPOT WELDING AND  
WELDING APPARATUS  
Group AU: 1793  
Examiner: Devang R. Patel  
Confirm. No: 2470

**AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop: AMEND – FEE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

May 18, 2009

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 17, 2008, the period for response having been extended for two (2) months by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as listed in the following, and as set forth on the following pages:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS; and

REMARKS are included following the amendments.